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PW Situation

General Thimayya has announced that release of PW's to their respective captors will begin on 20 January -- instead of 23 January.

- Indians proposed this step as means to avert murder of pro-Communist PW's by well-organized anti-Communist cells.
- Indians feared that if PW's were held beyond 0001 on the 23rd, possibility of breakouts and bloodshed might be aggravated under propaganda incitement from both the Communists and the ROK.

Peiping has reacted to this with charges of UNC "connivance" with South Korea and Nationalist China to "abduct" PW's.

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- Communists can be expected to put extreme pressure on the Indians to change this decision and will charge that India was forced to this decision by the U.S.
- Legally, release of PW's before 120 days are up on 23 January ^{place this} is a violation of even the UNC interpretation of the armistice agreement.

By this decision, India can avoid responsibility for the release of the PW's and ~~their~~ ^{place this} responsibility on the UNC and Communists.

General Thimayya is concerned over possibility of a Communist counter-move -- feels they will exploit situation for propaganda advantage and perhaps try to stir up panic, riot and some casualties.

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- Thimayya says he has seen considerable troop movements in the area north of Panmunjom outside the demilitarized zone. These may be related to replacement of CC 46th Army with CC 12th Army.
- Indians have noted gathering of "persons" on the hills in the zone just north of the demarcation line next to the Indian camp area.

Nevertheless, decision does help relieve tension in the camps and may avert much violence among the PW's.

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Force Dispositions in PW Area

South to North -

<u>Communist</u>	<u>UN</u>
NK I Corps	ROK Marine Division
9th Division	US 1st Marine Division
8th Division	1st Marine Regt.
CC 46th Army	5th Marine Regt.
136th Division	7th Marine Regt.
137th Division	

*outposts on
zone border*

North Camp contains Communist PW's
(ROK-328; US-21; UK-1) who want to go to
China, North Korea or the USSR.

South Camp contains anti-Communist PW's
(Chinese - 14, 400; Koreans 7, 700).

Those who wish to go to neutral countries
(60-80 anti-Communists; 4 pro-Communists)
are believed to have been segregated.

A total of 5, 500 Indian troops guard the camps.